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from this lake. Where the routes from Kilwa crossed that river it flowed north and south. It might, however, owe its origin to a lake, which Dr. Krapf placed at 10 days' journey west of Kilwa.

The third Paper read was—

3. *Despatch from Dr. Baikie, Commander of the Niger Expedition, to Earl Russell, dated Lukoja, September 10th, 1861. Communicated by the FOREIGN OFFICE.*

“MY LORD,—The *Sunbeam* arrived on the afternoon of the 31st of August, and by her I received letters and despatches, being the first since 2nd March, 1860. Among them was your Lordship's despatch of June, 1860, recalling the expedition; but, after great consideration, I have ventured to defer my return to England until I can again communicate with your Lordship, and this I have done for the following reasons:—

“1st. Your Lordship has not yet been informed of the present state of affairs here, nor of what has been done here during the past year.

“2nd. My supplies being limited, and my horses having all died, I was prevented from making any lengthened journey; but as I could not be idle, I tried to take advantage of a seemingly favourable state of affairs, and accordingly made a settlement at this spot.

“3rd. The King of Núpe, the most powerful next to the Sultan of Sokoto, being desirous of seeing a market for European produce here, entered into relations with us, and undertook to open various roads for the passage of caravans, traders, and canoes to this place, which promise he has faithfully performed; I on my part, on the strength of the general tenor of my instructions, and faith in Mr. Laird's intentions, giving him to understand that it was the desire of H.M.'s Government to have a trading station here.

“4th. During our late distressed state, the King of Núpe behaved most kindly and liberally towards us, and, besides frequent presents, lent us cowries for our current expenses, so that I am now in his debt 70*l.* or thereabouts; and during the very limited stay of the steamer here, eleven days and a-half, it was totally impossible to communicate with and pay the king, and it would have been a most ungracious and impolitic act, after his extreme kindness, to have left the place in his debt, and one which I feel assured your Lordship would not have approved of.

“5th. Because, having secured a position here, and the place promising so well, I hardly feel justified in giving it up without first communicating with your Lordship.

"Both the Rev. Mr. Crowther and Captain Walker, agent for the late Mr. Laird's executors, have expressed themselves most favourably impressed with the condition of the place, with its value as a central position and place for trade, and with the importance of keeping it up; and Mr. Crowther will send his views at length to England. I have reduced my staff as much as possible. Mr. Dalton is going to England; I have sent one servant to Sierra Leone, one to Lagos, and another is only prevented from also going by his being at Bida, and the leaving of the steamer before he can possibly reach it; and I am remaining with only two young men and my native followers. I have started a regular market here, and have established the recognition of Sunday as a non-trading day, and the exclusion of slaves from our market. Already traders come to us from Kabbi, Kano, and other parts of Hausa, and we hope, ere long, to see regular caravans with ivory and other produce. I have arranged with the Rev. Mr. Crowther again to try to open a road to Lagos by Ibádan, and at the end of this month I shall send off a messenger by this route to meet Mr. Crowther at Abbeokuta, and to return with other people.

"The step I am taking is, I can assure your Lordship, not lightly adopted. After a prolonged absence from England, to stay another season here without any Europeans, with only a faint prospect of speedy communication, and after all my experience of hunger and difficulty last year, is by no means an inviting prospect. But what I look to are the securing for England a commanding position in Central Africa, and the necessity for making a commencement. I have consulted with the Rev. Mr. Crowther, and that gentleman agrees with me in the expediency of what I am about to do, and in consequence of my determination he has left one of his followers with his family in charge of his mission station at the town of Gbébe on the opposite shore. But I would respectfully request that, should your Lordship see fit to recall me, another may be appointed in my place who should have Consular authority, and whom I might personally introduce as my successor, and who would alike represent England here, and at the same time protect the many people who have trusted the white men, and who have gathered round me."

The meeting was then adjourned to January 13th, 1862.
